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FOR RELEASE AT 7:00 P.M. EST, DECEMBER 2, 1964

John A. McCone, Director of Central Intelligence, was awarded the Herbert Hoover Medal tonight at the annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in New York.

The Hoover Medal, founded in 1929, was instituted to commemorate the civic and humanitarian achievements of Herbert Hoover, and the first award was made to him in 1930. It is awarded by engineers to a fellow engineer for distinguished public service. Mr. McCone was named Hoover Medalist for 1964 by a Board of Award representing several professional engineering societies. Past recipients of the medal include former President Eisenhower, James R. Killian, Jr., and Charles F. Kettering.

Mr. McCone, a native Californian, entered official government service in 1947 after a highly successful industrial career. He was appointed Under Secretary of the Air Force by President Truman, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission by President Eisenhower, and Director of

Page 2

Central Intelligence by President Kennedy. He is currently serving in this position under President Johnson and as such he is the principal intelligence officer of the Government. He was cited tonight as one "whose contributions in industry and in government service, under four presidents, have led to the advancement and well-being of mankind."